

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated *Babesia canis* associated protein, said protein having a molecular weight of about 15 kD when determined by SDS-gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions and comprising an amino acid sequence ~~that is at least 80% homologous to the amino acid sequence~~ as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 33-63 (Cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) A vaccine for combating *Babesia canis* infections, comprising a protein according to Claim 32 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
65. (Previously presented) The vaccine of claim 64 further comprising an adjuvant.
66. (Previously presented) The vaccine of claim 64 further comprising an additional antigen obtainable from a virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said antigen.
67. (Previously presented) The vaccine according to claim 66, wherein said virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs is selected from the group of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *vogeli*, *rossi*, *Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*, *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *pomona*, *grippotyphosa*, *bratislava*, Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus, *Hepatozoon canis* and *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
68. (Cancelled)